

Application Serial No. 10/551,815
Reply to final office action of March 20, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~refining providing local information~~ Internet search results in response to a search request input through a communication network by a searcher utilizing a keyword and a local information of the searcher, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first local information from the searcher comprising at least a location information of the searcher related to the searcher;

maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher;

receiving a second local information comprising at least a location information of one or more of search items related to a network information provider, wherein each search item corresponds to a web page on the Internet;

maintaining a database including the search items related to the network information provider, wherein some of the search items are related to the keyword of the searcher;

receiving the search request input through an Internet search engine by from the searcher, the search request utilizing both the keyword and the maintained first local information related to the searcher;

identifying at least more than one search item related to the keyword that matches the search request, when the keyword that matches the search request is a local keyword, identifying search items related to the local keyword and selecting the search item related to the second local information matched to the first local information, among the identified search items, ~~wherein the second local information matched to the first local information comprises both the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information and the second local information that is closely related to the first local information;~~ and arranging at least a part of the search items according to a predetermined search

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item arranging method in arranging the selected search items so as to provide Internet search results according to the first local information of the searcher, wherein the local keyword is differently selected depending on region with consideration of characteristics of the region.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of arranging at least a part of the search items according to the predetermined search item arranging method comprises the step of arranging the selected search item preferentially.
3. (cancelled)
4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of arranging at least a part of the search items according to the predetermined search item arranging method, is to preferentially arrange the search item related to the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information and subsequently arrange the search item related to the second local information closely related to the first local information.
5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of storing the first local information as search configuration setting information of the searcher, and the step of receiving the search request input through the Internet search engine by ~~from~~ the searcher comprises the step of obtaining the first local information from the stored search configuration setting information.
6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5,
wherein the step of storing the first local information as the search configuration setting information of the searcher and the step of receiving the search request input through the Internet search engine by ~~from~~ the searcher comprise a log-in procedure

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by the searcher.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of storing the first local information in the form of a cookie file at a searcher's terminal, and the step of receiving the search request input through the Internet search engine by ~~from~~ the searcher comprises the step of accessing to the cookie file and obtaining the first local information.
8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of installing a client program at a searcher's terminal, and the step of receiving the search request input through the Internet search engine ~~by~~ ~~from~~ the searcher comprises the step of receiving the first local information using the client program installed in the searcher's terminal.
9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of receiving the second local information from the network information provider.
10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of extracting the second local information from a website of the network information provider.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of extracting the second local information from configuration setting information of the network information provider.
12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of extracting the second local information comprises the steps of:

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maintaining a telephone exchange number and the second local information regarding the telephone exchange number, for a telephone number database;

obtaining information of the telephone exchange number, in which the configuration setting information includes the telephone exchange number of the network information provider; and

identifying the second local information that is in agreement with information of the telephone exchange number of the network information provider with reference to the telephone number database.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the predetermined search item arranging method is one among a keyword banner, knowledge search results, a sponsor link, a category, and a plus site.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of receiving network information from the network information provider to register the network information at a database, and relating the registered network information to a plurality of the search items.

15. (currently amended) A method for refining providing local information Internet search results in response to a search request input through a communication network by a searcher utilizing a keyword and a local information of the searcher, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first local information from the searcher comprising at least a location information for searching from the searcher and storing the received first local information for searching;

maintaining the first local information searching related to the searcher;

maintaining a second local information comprising at least a location information of one or more of search items for searching related to the searcher, wherein each search item corresponds to a web page on the Internet;

receiving a request for a local advertisement related to the second local

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information, from a network information provider;

maintaining a plurality of search items related to a keyword, in which the search items are related to the second local information in response to the request for the local advertisement;

receiving the search request input through an Internet Search engine the ~~from~~ the searcher, the search request utilizing both the keyword and the maintained first local information related to the searcher;

identifying at least more than one search item related to the keyword that meets the search request, when the keyword that matches the search request is a local keyword, identifying search items related to the local keyword and selecting the second local information and search item related to the second local information matched to the first local information, among the identified search items, ~~wherein the second local information matched to the first local information comprises both the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information and the second local information that is closely related to the first local information~~; and

arranging at least a part of the search items according to a predetermined search item arranging method in arranging the selected search items so as to provide Internet search results according to the first local information of the searcher,
wherein the local keyword is differently selected depending on region with consideration of characteristics of the region.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
determining a predetermined advertisement charge for the local advertisement,
wherein the advertisement charge is differently determined depending on the local information related to the local advertisement.
17. (original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
determining a predetermined advertisement charge for the local advertisement,
wherein the advertisement charge is determined with consideration of frequency of page view or reference of the selected search item.

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18 -19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A system for refining providing local information Internet search results in response to a search request input through a communication network by a searcher utilizing a keyword and a local information of a searcher, the system comprising:

a local information processing part for receiving the first local information for searching from the searcher and storing the first local information;

a search request receiving part for receiving the search a search-request input through an Internet search engine by -from the searcher, the search request utilizing both the keyword and the maintained first local information related to the searcher;

a storing part for storing a plurality of search items related to a network information provider and relating the search item to a keyword and the second local information related to the network information provider, wherein each search item corresponds to a web page on the Internet;

a search performing part for identifying search item related to a keyword that meets the search request, when the keyword that matches the search request is a local keyword, identifying search items related to the local keyword and selecting a search item related to the second local information matched to the first local information, among the identified search items, in response to the search request, wherein the second local information matched to the first local information comprises both the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information and the second local information that is closely related to the first local information; and

a search results providing part for arranging the selected search items according to a predetermined search item arranging method so as provide Internet search results according to the first local information of the searcher,

wherein the local keyword is differently selected depending on region with consideration of characteristics of the region.

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21. (original) A computer-readable recording medium, in which a program for implementing a method according to claim 1 in a computer, is recorded.
22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second local information that is closely related to the first local information comprises at least one of closely related location information, closely related cultural information, closely related social information, and closely related environmental information.
23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the second local information that is closely related to the first local information comprises at least one of closely related location information, closely related cultural information, closely related social information, and closely related environmental information.
24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the second local information that is closely related to the first local information comprises at least one of closely related location information, closely related cultural information, closely related social information, and closely related environmental information.
25. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second local information matched to the first local information comprises both the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information and the second local information that is closely related to the first local information.